

Through the efforts of this group of people, the community of Paterson has been enriched. I am confident that there are many lives that this organization has changed and I am sure that they find victories on a daily basis. It is my firm belief that the Integrity Lodge will continue this fine tradition of community service in the years to come, and will serve with distinction as tireless advocates on behalf of Paterson, NJ.

I congratulate the Integrity Lodge #51 for their 100 years of dedicated service.●

KLAMATH FOOD BANK

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to give tribute to some Oregon heroes. Over the past year, I have come to the Senate floor on several occasions to describe the tragic events in the Klamath Basin last year. Today, I wish to salute some of the heroes, who when watching their neighbors in need, responded with great compassion and service to their community.

In April of last year, the farm economy of Klamath Falls was sent into a tailspin when the decision was made to forego water deliveries to farmers in favor of protecting threatened and endangered fishes. Almost overnight, the devastating effects of the water shut-off began to be felt. In one month's time, the number of families seeking assistance from the local food bank jumped by seven hundred.

The response from the surrounding community was incredible. Farmers, car dealerships, coffee shops, gas stations, banks, schools, and countless others came together to lend their support to folks in the Klamath Basin. On June 15 of last year, Joe Gilliam, President of the Oregon Grocers Association, with the help of grocers from around the State, gathered 240,000 pounds of food. This food helped feed the community for nearly two months.

In August, Oregon Senator and farmer Gary George of Pendleton, Oregon decided that he too had to do something. He set out and, with the help of Oregonians In Action, raised \$30,000. Also in August, K-Dove Radio, Perry Atkinson and his son Oregon Senator Jason Atkinson, and sixty churches in the Medford area, joined together in collecting 27,000 pounds of food. They delivered it in two twenty-four-foot Ryder trucks.

The examples of kindness go on and on. For as tragic as the situation last year in the Basin was, Oregonians from around the State responded with an equal level of benevolence. With the help of hundreds of community volunteers and under the direction of Niki Sampson, the Klamath Falls-Lake County Food Bank has distributed 830,000 pounds of food and non-food products.

This has been a very emotional year, and as a U.S. Senator and as an Oregonian, I am very proud of how the people in my State have responded. The gen-

erosity shown by so many truly reaffirms one's faith in the goodness of people. In my mind, every single person who volunteered his or her time or resources is a hero. Today, I salute the workers, the volunteers, and all those who gave of themselves to help this community in need.●

VENEZUELA

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I rise regarding recent events in Venezuela and my concern that the response of the administration was inconsistent with our foreign policy goal of promoting democracy abroad.

On April 12, following anti-government protests by civil opposition sectors, supported by parts of the military, President Hugo Chavez was briefly forced to resign power. The civil-military movement named businessman Pedro Carmona as interim president, and he then took steps which further undermined constitutional order, dissolving the legislature and the Supreme Court. Instead of protesting these clear violations of democratic order, the U.S. found itself virtually alone in the region in seemingly welcoming the undemocratic change in government in Venezuela.

Latin American presidents, meeting in Costa Rica, quickly condemned the coup as contrary to democratic obligations of members of the Organization of American States. Their action had nothing to do with support for President Chavez, whose radical declarations and friendly links to Cuba and Iraq had caused discomfort in the region and in Washington.

However, the American government did not acknowledge that a coup had occurred and referred to the action as "a change in the government." After 2 days, the lack of full support inside the Venezuelan military, the extreme nature of the actions of the interim president in voiding Venezuela's democratic institutions, and the clear opposition of hemispheric leaders resulted in Chavez being reinstated to the presidency.

The Inter-American Democratic Charter, which the United States and the other members of the Organization of American States agreed to last year, commits all member governments to condemn and investigate the overthrow of any democratically elected OAS member government. These events tested the resolve of Western Hemisphere leaders in their support of democracy, and Latin American leaders responded decisively. Unfortunately, the American government failed the test.

Our government must support changes of government through a constitutional process, not military means. America's failure to condemn the illegal overthrow of a democratically elected leader in Venezuela has seriously undermined our credibility in the Western Hemisphere.

The United States must be a leader in promoting the strengthening of de-

mocracy in our hemisphere. We can do this by abiding by the OAS charter and by working within the OAS to maintain close scrutiny of democracies at risk.

The Secretary-General of the OAS, Dr. Cesar Gaviria, arrived in Venezuela this week to evaluate the latest developments and explore how the OAS can support Venezuela in its efforts to strengthen democracy. As a member of the OAS, our government should strongly and unequivocally support Secretary-General Gaviria's mission. We must also support the right of the voters of Venezuela to decide their political future. At the same time, President Chavez should fully respect individual freedoms, including freedom of the press, due process, and the rule of law. The OAS should continue to monitor the situation in Venezuela closely, and the U.S. Government should renew its commitment to democracy and democratic standards in the region.●

TRIBUTE TO TASK FORCE 2-153, ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD

● Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, it is my distinct honor and privilege to recognize the "Arkansas Gunslingers." Task Force 2-153, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Steve Womack, made military history on January 13, 2002 by becoming the first pure Army National Guard unit to represent the United States in performing the Multinational Force and Observer, MFO, mission on the Sinai peninsula in Egypt which was born out of the 1979 Camp David Peace Accords.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry headquartered in Searcy, AR, along with other elements of the 39th Infantry Brigade were mobilized October 8, 2001 as part of President Bush's Homeland Defense initiative and the War on Terrorism. Under the strong leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Womack, Major Franklin Powell and Command Sergeant Major John Hogue, Task Force 2-153 exceeded all post-mobilization, pre-deployment, and post-deployment requirements. This accomplishment is particularly noteworthy given that these citizen-soldiers were given this critical and highly visible assignment just 90 days prior to deployment, at most, half the time to prepare routinely given to Regular Army units. When called upon by their commander in chief, this proud group of Arkansans literally lived up to their motto: "Let's Go"!

It is with great pride that I have risen today to pay tribute to the more than 500 soldiers who make up the Arkansas Gunslingers. They have selflessly put their private lives on hold to answer the call of duty. Their presence on the Sinai Peninsula is a powerful symbol of peace. The people of Arkansas are grateful for their service, and extremely proud that they have been chosen to represent the United States of America in this important mission.●